

MAR THOMA RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL, TIRUVALLA.  
SECOND TERMINAL EXAMINATION - 2019

Class: 9

ENGLISH LITERATURE (Paper - II)

Time: 2 hrs  
Marks: 80

*Answers to this paper must be written on the paper provided separately.*

*You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.*

*This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.*

*The time given at the head of the Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.*

*Attempt only five questions in all.*

*You must attempt one from each of the Sections A, B and C. And any two other questions.*

SECTION A - DRAMA

The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare

Question 1.

*Bassanio: Her name is Portia; nothing undervalued  
To Cato's daughter, Brutus' Portia:  
Nor is the wide world ignorant of her worth,  
For the four winds blow in from every coast  
Renowned suitors; and her sunny locks  
Hang on her temples like a golden fleece;  
Which makes her seat of Belmont colchos' strand,  
And many Jasons come in quest of her.*

1. To whom is Portia in the play, *The Merchant of Venice*, compared in the extract?  
Who are Cato and Brutus? 3
2. Why does Bassanio think that Portia loves him? How has Bassanio described  
Portia just before this extract? 3
3. How does Bassanio prove that the wide world is not ignorant of her worth? 3
4. Why is Belmont compared to *Colchos' strand*? Who are *Jasons*? 3
5. Give the meaning and the significance of---*and her sunny locks hang on her  
temples like golden fleece.* 4

Question 2.

Portia : *If I live to be as old as Sibylla, I will die as chaste as Diana, unless I be obtained by the manner of my father's will. I am glad this parcel of wooers is so reasonable, for there is not one among them, but I dote on this very absence, and I pray God grant them a fair departure.*

Nerrisa: *Do you not remember, lady, in your father's time, a venetian, a scholar and a soldier, that came hither in company of the Marquis of Montferrat?*

1. What is the topic of discussion between Portia and Nerrisa? Name the suitors mentioned in the extract? 3
2. What does Portia imply by saying, *the parcel of wooers are so reasonable?* 3
3. Who is the Venetian? When had he first visited Portia's house? 3
4. How is he described by Nerissa? 3
5. How do you know that Portia remembers the Venetian? 3
6. In what context does Portia refer to *Sibylla* and *Diana*? 4

Question 3.

Morocco: *Let's see once more this saying graved in gold:  
"Who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire."  
Why, that's the Lady; all the world desires her;  
From the four corners of the earth they come,  
To kiss this shrine, this mortal breathing saint*

1. Where is the speaker? What had he said about his complexion in the previous scene? 3
2. What warning is the speaker given before he makes his choice? 3
3. Who are *they* referred to in the extract? 3
4. What does *the shrine, this mortal breathing saint* and *the Hyrcanian deserts* mean? 3
5. Why does the *prince* think that Portia's picture is not in the lead casket? 3
6. Which casket did the speaker choose? Give the reasons which made him choose that casket? What did the speaker feel after he made his choice? 4

## SECTION-B POETRY

Question 4.

*What does he plant, who plants a tree?  
He plants in sap and leaf and wood,  
In love of home and loyalty  
And far-cast thought of civic good---  
His blessings on the neighbourhood  
Who in the hollow of His hand  
Holds all the growth of all our land----  
A nations growth from sea to sea  
Stirs in his heart who plants a tree.*

1. How does a person who plants a tree, serve his nation? 3
2. Which fundamental values have been highlighted in this stanza? 3
3. What does the poet mean by *the hollow of His hand* and *all the growth of all our land*? 3
4. What according to the poet *stirs* in his heart, who plants a tree? 3
5. Comment on the appropriateness of the title by giving two examples from the poem *The Heart of the Tree*. 4

Question 5.

*Some like fields of sunlit corn,  
Meet for a bride on her bridal morn,  
Some, like the flame of her marriage fire,  
Or, rich with the hue of her heart's desire,  
Tinkling, luminous, tender and clear,  
Like her bridal laughter and bridal tear.*

1. What is being compared to *fields of sunlit corn*? What are they suggestive of? 3
2. What are the bangles chosen by the brides? What is their symbolic significance? 3
3. Bring out the relevance of the line:  
*Some, like the flame of her marriage fire,* 3  
Give the figure of speech.
4. How do the bangles enhance the celebration of the weddings? In what ways does the poet associate bangles with a bride? 3
5. Explain the colour imagery used by the poet? 4

Question 6.

*They sit and stare and sit  
Until they're hypnotised by it,  
Until they're absolutely drunk  
With all that shocking ghastly junk.*

1. Who and what is referred to as *They* and *it* respectively in the above extract? How does *it* fill their mind with junk? What advice has the poet given to parents?
2. What effect does the continuous sitting and staring by the children have on the parents?
3. What is meant by *ghastly junk*? Why do the parents let their children watch television uninterrupted?
4. The poet advises children to read books for entertainment. How far do you agree with his advice?
5. What purpose do the repetitions serve in the extract? Give one example from the extract. What type of rhyme scheme is used in the extract?

SECTION-C PROSE

Question 7.

*'I saw something—something horrible—a boy weeping in the forest—  
And he had no face!'*

*'No face, Sahib?'*

*'No eyes, nose, mouth--- nothing!'*

*'Do you mean it was like this, Sahib?' asked the watchman, and raised the  
face. The watchman had no eyes, no ears, and no features at all—not even an eyebrow  
that's when the wind blew the lamp out.*

1. Why was Mr. Oliver surprised to see the boy?
2. Why was the boy called a miscreant?
3. Why did Mr. Oliver move closer to the boy? Who was sitting alone on the rock in the forest?
4. How did he show his concern for the boy? Did the boy reply affirmatively?
5. Which horrible sight frightened Mr. Oliver?

Question 8.

*Idleness, vice and intemperance had done their miserable work, and the dead mother lay cold and still amid her wretched children. She had fallen upon the threshold of her own door in a drunken fit, and died in the presence of her frightened little ones.*

*Death touches the spring of our common humanity. This woman had been despised, scoffed and angrily denounced by nearly every man, woman, and child in the village.*

1. How did the woman die? What kind of relation did the woman have with others? 3
2. What kind of living conditions were the woman and her children subjected to? 3
3. How many children did the dead woman leave behind?
4. How did everyone try to help the children in their own way? 3
5. How did the youngest child Maggie get disabled? What was her prospective future? 3
6. How has T.S Arthur brought out the ambiguities in *Angel in Disguise*? 4

Question 9.

Answer the following questions with reference to R, K Narayan's Short story, *A Horse and Two Goats*.

1. State briefly the position of women in villages as depicted in the story. 4
  2. Explain the clash of cultures brought about in the story. 4
  3. How has the author used troubled communication between Muni and the American to create humour in the story. 8
- Give examples from the story.